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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

IN RE APPLICATION OF:
Nelson, et al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/826,127

FILED: April 4, 2001

TITLE: VISCOSITY REDUCTION OF
VISCOELASTIC SURFACTANT BASED
FLUIDS

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DOCKET NO.: 56.0503

GROUP ART UNIT: 1712

EXAMINER: Tucker P,

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 10, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Status of the application

Claims 1-26, 29, 33-35 and 37-50 are pending in the application. Claims 1-26, 29, 33-35, 37, 38
and 42-50 are allowed. Claims 39 and 40 were rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by
Chang (6399546). Claims 41 was objected to as dependent upon a rejected case but otherwise
allowable.

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Amendments

Please cancel claims 39 and 40 and amend claim 41 as follows:

41. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a subterranean formation by injecting down a well an aqueous fluid comprising a thickening amount of a viscoelastic surfactant comprising providing a precursor of a breaking system, said breaking system comprising a carboxylic acid released from a precursor comprising a carboxylate anion, said released being performed after lowering of the pH of the viscoelastic surfactant fluid through hydrolysis of an ester and causing a reduction in viscosity of the fluid after its injection but does not significantly impact its viscosity at surface and during the injection.
